

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8460

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INKU RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 8545

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7540

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR PEPR PK UK

SUBJ: CHISTIS VISIT TO UK

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS PAKISTAN'S MINISTER FOR ESTABLISHMENT, FEDERAL INSPECTION COMMISSION, KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN AREAS, LT GEN FAIZ ALI CHISTI, IS IN LONDON WHERE HE HAS HAD MEETINGS WITH BRITISH HOME SECRETARY MERLYN REES AND FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN. LT. GEN CHISTI TOLD PRESS HE WAS SENT BY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GEN ZIA TO LEARN THE PROBLEMS OF PAKISTANIS IN BRITAIN AND INFORM UK GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE STATUS OF PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN RELATIONS.

2. LT. GEN CHISTI AS MINISTER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND HEAD OF THE FEDERAL INSPECTION COMMISSION (AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF THE CMLA) IS IN CHARGE OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS UNDER WHICH HOLDERS OF PUBLIC OFFICE ARE EXAMINED FOR MISDEEDS COMMITTED DURING BHUTTO'S ADMINISTRATION AND OF IN EFFECT GETTING CANDIDATES FOR FUTURE POLITICAL RACES. THE CMLA HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO ELECTIONS OF ANY SORT IN PAKISTAN UNTIL THE PROCESS OF

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ACCOUNTABILITY IS CONCLUDED, MAKING GEN. CHISTIS ROLE CRITICAL TO THE PROCESS OF RETURNING TO DEMOCRACY. GEN. CHISTI IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS WHICH HE HOPES WILL BE HELD IN DECEMBER.

3. LT. GEN CHISTI APPARENTLY MADE SOOTHING NOISES TO THE PAKISTANIS IN BRITAIN WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF DISCRIMINATION

AND HARRASSMENT IN RECENT MONTHS. HE TOLD REES THE GOP "HAD FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO LOOK AFTER THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION".

4. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAKISTAN TIMES REPORTED GEN. CHISTI BRIEFED FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AND "IMPROVEMENTS IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PAKISTAN SINCE THE JULY 5, 1977 COUP".

5. FOR LONDON: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE ON SUBSTANCE CHISTI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH HMG AND OF ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE DURING VISIT.

HUMMEL

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